(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the company has been allowed to import capital goods from United Kingdom and Japan on the basis of biased and vested recommendation and wrong evaluation of cost of capital goods by the private consultants and Director General Technical Development resulting in non-viability of the project and thereby forcing the Government of Himachal Pradesh to decide to sell this project to private sector;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government against the private consultants and officials of D.G.T.D. for furnishing biased recommendations; and

(e) whether Government would set up a Committee and consider continuance of corrugated paper boxes project in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) A letter of intent has been issued on 30-5-1986 to M/s. Agro Industrial Packaging (I) Ltd., a Government of Himachal Pradesh undertaking, to set up a new unit for manufacture of (i) High Strength Kraft Paper and (ii) Corrugated Cartons

(c) In Dec., 1988, Government had allowed the Company to import Capital Goods from Japan & U.K. for this project, after considering the essentiality and indigenous angles. The Company has reported that their Consultants evaluated the offers against global tenders and their recommendations to import the Capital Goods were based on technical and commercial considerations. The Company has also reported that the project is viable and, at this stage, there is no proposal to sell this project to private sector.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

ASSOCHAM'S request for overhauling of MRTP Act

2083. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI RAMADAS AGRAWAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ASSOCHAM has requested Government for thorough overhauling of MRTP Act;

(b) whether Government are planning to raise the limit for MRTP companies; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether ASSOCHAM has also desired revision of FERA and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) ASSOCHAM has represented to the Government for changes in the MRTP Act, 1969, including raise in the threshold limit from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 500 crores under Section 20 of the Act.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to increase the threshold limit under section 20 of MRTP Act, 1969.

(c) The Chamber has sought revision of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) and greater encouragement to foreign direct investment.

Assets, turn over and Profits of Twenty Top Industrial Houses

2084. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what were the assets, turn over and profits of twenty top industrial houses in the country during 1988; and

(b) what were the assets, turn over and profits of these industrial houses during the year 1989 and so far in 1990?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) A Statement showing the assets, turn over and profit before tax in 1987-88 (accounting year April, 1987 to March, 1988) of the companies registered under Section 26 of the MRTP Act and belonging to the twenty top industrial houses in the country ranked according to their assets (in 1987-88) is annexed. (*See* below)

(b) Information for 1988-89 is not yet available; and the balance sheets of the companies for the year ending 1990 are not yet due.

Statement

Assets, turnover and profit before tax in 1987-88 (accounting year ending April, 1987 to March, 1988) of companies registered under section 26 of the MRTP Act and belonging to the twenty top industrial houses in the country ranked according to their assets in 1987-88.

Rs. in Crores

Sl. No.	Name of the Industrial House	Assets	Turn over	Profit before tax
1.	Birla	5564.37	5121.69	150.16
2.	Tata	5558.56	5442.22	280.53
3.	Reliance	2033.15	1006.55	12.95
4.	J.K. Singhania	1566.41	1346.97	5.62
5.	Thapar	1317.10	1193.68	20.08
6.	Mafatlal	1131.18	1233.76	41.11
7.	Bajaj	953.68	1064.85	106.24
8.	Larsen & Toubro	931.28	657.70	44.04
9.	Modi	902.52	1198.90	1.22
10.	M.A. Chidambaram	866.56*	413.97*	6.27*
11.	Hindustan Lever	775.42	1596.47	127.55
12.	T.V.S. Iyenger	766.81	902.41	29.69
13.	A.C.C.	759.26	751.34	(–)20.52
14.	Shri Ram	685.36	949.53	(–)2.21
15.	Bangur	651.93	687.18	(–)28.91
16.	Walchand	592.39	562.66	11.91
17.	I.T.C.	567.05	1501.76	28.55
18.	I.C.I	537.30	644.05	25.45
19.	Kirloskar	517.69	663.13	25.52
20.	United Breweries	488.84	587.52	27.55

*Includes Southern Petrochemical Industries Corpn. Ltd. which has been included in M.A. Chidambaram Group in 1985.

Issue of Licences/Letters of Intent for Exploration of Hydrocarbons

2085. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the parties which have been issued licences/letters of intent for exploration of hydrocarbons